Title of the project – narrative summary

Survey on the Attitudes, Knowledge and Practices on Emergency Contraceptive Pill among Polish physicians

Comprehensive description of the project: rationale, methods, approach, outcome (max 500 words)

BACKGROUND: Polish Doctors for Women (Lekarze Kobietom) is an informal initiative that unites doctors from all across Poland willing to help women gain access to emergency contraception. The initiative has been a response reaction towards Polish Ministry of Health’s decision to reinstate the requirement for doctor’s prescription for emergency contraception. The Federation for Women and Family Planning serves as the secretariat and legal agent of the initiative.

The idea is simple. After receiving a message from a patient in need, member of our organisation suggests her to have an appointment with a General Practitioner, gynecologist or, if it’s a weekend or late evening, to visit the Emergency Department at local hospital. In many cases that’s enough – according to Polish law, every doctor with a valid medical license can issue a prescription for the emergency contraceptive pill (levonorgestrel 1.5 mg or ulipristal acetate 30 mg). Unfortunately, there are situations when a doctor refuses to write a prescription referring to the conscientious objection. Only in cases when such circumstances occur women are asked to contact Doctors for Women, she is then referred to one of doctors who is part of the initiative. Doctors for Women work as volunteers or charge patients symbolically “1 PLN” (0,23 EUR) for an appointment.

Our daily activities are around three main areas:
- direct management of the requests of the patients at the on-line platform
- recruitment and reaching out to potential new providers
- raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights and addressing myths and misconceptions via social media channels, news and infographics.

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this work is to explore the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of physicians (both members of the Doctors for Women and non-members) about intention to prescribe emergency contraception pills and to identify barriers to emergency contraception pill use.

To determine how to structure and deliver messages about ECP and ensure effective communication it is essential to evaluate common fears, concerns, and misconceptions about ECP, as well as which specific knowledge gaps that need to be addressed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:
We would like to survey about 1000 doctors practicing in Poland public and private health institutions. Surveying will be conducted online and during the annual meeting of Polish Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians. We would like to divide participants into several categories: depending if they are members of Polish Doctors for Women or not and if they are Gynecologists and resident doctors of obstetrics and gynecology or other specialties. Doctors will be surveyed over the same period, using the same questionnaire, divided into five sections:

- basic demography such as age, sex, specialty and type of practice;
- the types of emergency contraceptives used, whether they provided emergency contraceptive pills in advance and their estimated workload;
- 10 questions to test the subjects’ knowledge on current international recommendations on emergency contraception;
- statements to evaluate their attitudes towards emergency contraception using a four-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree);
- statements to evaluate their attitudes towards more liberal delivery of emergency contraceptive pills using the same four-point scale.

To maximize the impact of this project an roundtable meeting will be held after analyzing the results of the survey. Its aim is to engage Doctors for Women members, practitioners, medical students and NGO leaders in a debate on a key challenges that are faced in Poland in terms of EC.
When would it start / finish? (Max 20 words)
We will complete this project over a one-year period: September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

Where will it take place – country / town, establishment? (Max 20 words)
Approximately 100 cities in Poland, our headquarters is based in Warsaw

Objectives and needs identified. (Max 100 words)
Since the launch of the initiative more than 8000 women were supported by over 200 Doctors for Women. It has limited capacity and often is not able to support everyone in need; especially when there is simply no doctors available in a particular city or region. The initiative is therefore working on its outreach to new potential members to be able to continue its activities.
- Map stakeholders and determine their awareness and attitude towards prescribing EC;
- Develop recommendations to improve service delivery
- Prepare a knowledge base and media campaign based on blind spots in medical knowledge

Sector in the area of contraception, sexual and reproductive health:
Emergency contraception

Is it a ‘new’ project? Yes No

If extension of an existing programme, provide information on original programme (Max 50 words)

What outcomes will be measured? List. (Max 50 words)
Some of the barriers to increasing the prescription and use of EC in our sample could be easily addressed through a simple educational program combined with traditional and social media campaign. We want to get to know physicians’ concerns, attitudes and identify lacks of knowledge in order to prepare well-addressed campaign.

Do you foresee any reasons (political, climatic, etc) why this project may be adversely affected? (Max 20 words)
Political climate in Poland can have a negative impact on the project due to significant influence of Polish catholic church on public policies.

D. Financial related information

Are there other partners or organisations supporting this same project?
Yes No

Will this be part of a larger fund or stand alone? (Max 20 words)

Have you already obtained any funding or still awaiting a response towards this project?
No

How much money is required for the project in total?

How much are you requesting from ESC?
10,000

Please provide a detailed budget here. This must include total costs and, if appropriate, list those costs associated with your grant from the ESC.

Staff work (secretary):
€1500

Printing costs for surveys:
€200

Outcomes analysis (data cleaning, statistical analysis of data, results writing):
€1000

Teams Roundtable:
Room hire - €400,
refreshments for 20 attendees - €200,
transportation costs - €400,
accommodation - €400

Costs associated with creating the brochure:
- selecting data, editing text and creating the brochure – €250
- layout and design - €250
- printing costs – €2500

Costs associated with creating the leaflets and posters with infographics:
- selecting data, editing text and creating the materials – €150
- layout and design - €300
- printing costs - €800

Annual meeting of Polish Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians
€800 x 2 persons - 1600

€7850 in total

The ESC may not be in a position to fully fund all applications; you must indicate whether / how part funding may impact your project. (Max 100 words)
We will try to find additional funder.

Who will oversee the budget & keep accounts? Provide name, title, contact number and email address
The Federation for Women and Family Planning as the legal and fiscal agent will be responsible for finances, keeping accounts and will oversee the budget.
Krystyna Kacpura
Executive Director
krystyna_k@astra.org.pl
Phone: +48 501694202

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Sector in the area of contraception, sexual and reproductive health:
Emergency contraception

Is it a ‘new’ project?
Yes
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<td>Do you foresee any reasons (political, climatic, etc) why this project may be adversely affected? (Max 20 words)</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will this be part of a larger fund or stand alone? (Max 20 words)</td>
<td>This is a new initiative and it stands alone.</td>
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<td>Eur9800</td>
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€ 9800 in total

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We will try to find additional finder.

Who will oversee the budget & keep accounts? Provide name, title, contact number and email address
The Federation for Women and Family Planning as the legal and fiscal agent will be responsible for finances, keeping accounts and will oversee the budget.
Krystyna Kacpura
Executive Director
krystyna_k@astra.org.pl
Phone:+48 5016

If we don't receive a fully fund for the project we will do our best to raise funds from other possible donors.
Who will oversee the budget & keep accounts? Provide name, title, contact number and email address

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If you or your department has received funding from ESC for a project or course before, please give details of the date of funding, contact person and title of project or course.

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<tr>
<td>The Federation received funds for a project titled Threats to Reproductive Health for Polish Women in 2015. contact person : Krystyna Kacpura</td>
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I/We, as responsible agents for this project, agree to the following 8 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I/We agree that all monies will be spent appropriately</th>
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<tr>
<td>I/We agree to work with the nominated Mentor</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/We agree to advise you at the earliest time if this project is delayed or cannot be completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/We agree to provide an interim report(s) part way through the project and a final report to the ESC within 6 months of the end of the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/We agree to provide the ESC with an interim budget(s) and a detailed budget at the end of the project. NOTE funding will be awarded in stages and will be dependent on appropriate reporting.</td>
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<td>I/We agree to provide receipts for monies spent if requested.</td>
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<td>I/We agree that if we need to make any significant changes to the duration, contents or funding of the project after it has been awarded, I/we will advise the nominated mentor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/We (the applicant) agree to acknowledge the ESC as a donor in any publications, submission of abstracts and oral communications resulting from this project. Please inform the ESC Office where and when the data is to be presented and/or published and note that ideally any manuscript should be sent to the ESC journal in the first instance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/We agree to remain fully paid up ESC member(s) until the final grant report is submitted</td>
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